PRESS ADVISORY

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Major Mountain Projects Funded in 2012-2013 County Budget

SAN BERNARDINO—June 19, 2012—Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford is pleased to announce that the 2012-2013 San Bernardino County budget adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 15 includes nearly \$10 million for critical projects in the Rim of the World Mountain Communities.

The allocations include \$4 million to repair the earthen dam at Lake Gregory Regional Park and another \$5.9 million complete a storm drain project in Rimforest, which has been subjected to severe erosion and landslides because of poor drainage.

"Responsible budgeting requires us to make tough choices and to establish priorities based on the real needs of our communities," Rutherford said. "These allocations recognize two extremely significant projects in our mountain communities that have been placed on the budget backburner for far too many years."

The State Department of Safety of Dams (DSOD) first notified the County about potential deficiencies in the dam at Lake Gregory Regional Park in February 1986. After years of back-and-forth communication between the County and the DSOD, the State ordered County Regional Parks to remove metal slats from the lake's dam in 2010. The slats were used to raise the depth of the lake to accommodate summer activities. The DSOD expressed concern that the dam could be susceptible to seismic activity.

The County commissioned a study that identified problems in the dam and is currently reviewing eleven possible projects to fix the issues. DSOD must approve the selected project before repairs can commence.

In the 1990s, the area along Blackfoot Trail East in Rimforest experienced a deep-seated landslide that destroyed homes and part of the roadway. The erosion problem has persisted ever since. The County commissioned a study that identified a project to reroute excess drainage into Little Bear Creek, which flows through Blue Jay and into Lake Arrowhead. The project will require construction of storm drain systems along Highway 18 and in Rimforest. On June 5, the Board of Supervisors hired a firm to prepare a required environmental impact report for the proposed drainage project.

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